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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER

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No advertisement (or "puff") will be inserted in the Editorial or Reading matter, at any price; parties having new designs may have them displayed, free of charge, if worthy of our special notice.

Designs and Articles submitted for publication will be returned, if not accepted.

Correspondents will please give their full address in each communication.

We will not undertake to Classify any Advertisement received later than the 10th of the Month.

THE office of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER is now at Rooms 28, 29 and 30, 21 PARK Row, directly opposite the Astor House.

THE warnings continually given us of the insecurity of apartment houses should result in some decided action on the part of the building authorities for the protection of the tenants of so-called French flats. One very simple precaution, it appears, which would in a measure, however slight, reduce the dangers from fire, would be the removal of the elevator shaft from the centre of the building to the extreme rear. This well, extending from the roof to the ground, is usually the means of conducting the flames to the various floors, and the staircase being generally located near or even around this shaft, proper means of escape are at once shut off. The well-hole constructed for the purpose of ventilation, may be very readily bricked and in some degree made fireproof, but the elevator way has much inflammable material about it and contains all the elements of danger.

Architects and builders put up these houses apparently regardless of the safety of the inmates, calculating that the expense of providing reasonable security for the tenants would be more than the additional rate charged by fire companies in assuring the owner against the loss of his investment. Owners, it might be observed, seldom reside on their own property when the property is of this character.

There should be some limit set to the height of apartment houses; it is nonsense to assert that the law is powerless to control what a man shall erect on his own land. The law interferes with the establishment of that which will depreciate the value of adjoining property, though it ignores that which is a constant menace to human life. If there is no law that warrants this interference, there certainly might be one, and it should be put into active and vigorous force at once. A building is now being completed up town that is fourteen stories high, and yet there is no protest from the Bureau of Buildings, nor expression of disapproval even by the daily papers, although there can hardly be two opinions upon its safety.

The claim of "fire proof" has become a farce, and very properly, for no building can ever approach that condition with the slipshod form of construction such as has been shown in the examples that have been thus far accidentally tested.

WE have several times taken occasion to suggest an exhibition of decorative designs and materials, based somewhat upon the principle of the Paris SALON DES ARTS DECORATIFS, where every year the best examples of household art are shown.

Decorative novelties are introduced almost with the recurrence of the months, and many of them so exceedingly beautiful and so especially desirable that they deserve a wider publicity than the inventor or manufacturer is usually in a position to give them. To have a permanent, or, if better, merely an occasional display of these

improvements, in a suitable place sufficiently large to permit their adaptation to their purpose being fully shown by putting them into practical use, would attract many persons who would be sufficiently interested in the subject to wish to consider the different forms of decoration in such a position as would enable them to judge their respective merits or effects.

The disposition now upon the part of the public to beautify and adorn their homes, would seem to offer all the encouragement required for decorators to start this enterprise. We trust some action will be taken, and we are prepared to receive any suggestions toward furthering the matter.

It was intended to present with this issue of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER the first of a new series of colored plates; and it is owing entirely to the delay of the lithographer that we are unable to carry out this intention.

The series of colored plates now being lithographed we feel satisfied will be valuable and effective aids to the decorator, as they embrace designs for ceilings and sidewalls executed in the prevailing fashionable colors, and showing designs made by some of the very best decorative artists in the city, and of a style exactly such as is desirable to employ upon the decoration of the latest works.

It is a matter of regret with us that we are unable to carry out our original idea of giving a plate with this issue.

THE beautiful illustration of the New York Casino in our April issue was designed, in a measure to show the harmonious and excellent effect of the pure Moresque form of decoration. In our admiration of the tasteful adornment of the walls and ceilings, we lost sight of the architects and designers whose careful plans made this decoration possible. Messrs. KIMBALL & WISEDELL, who designed and were the architects of the Casino, said recently in referring to their work: "We gave our best thoughts and time to the study of that work for two years, and followed up the carrying out of our ideas day and night. To adapt the style selected to the wants of a modern place of amusement, required constant watchfulness."

It is strange how peculiarly people will view the happenings of this world. A conversation overheard a few days after the most recent flat-fire displayed a very interesting phase of human nature:

"Yes, I was on the elevated road," the speaker said, "when I heard of the fire, and some one mentioned St. George's, and, of course, I feared at once it was the church gone again; but when I got off the cars and found it was the St. George Flats, I felt very much relieved."

What a relief it must have been! a building burning, filled with human beings, instead of the destruction of an empty church.

BOUND copies of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, embracing volumes 1 and 2, from October 1882 to September 1883, can be had from this office for \$6.00. There is a large number of new and useful designs for cabinet makers, furniture makers, frescoers, and amateurs, as well as reading matter practical and entertaining from the very best writers in the world, upon the subjects of which this journal treats.